

The Contract.

SOMETHING more than twenty years ago the Government needed men to serve in its Army and Navy. Laws were passed whereby the United States were made to say to every soldier and sailor who offered himself and was accepted, substantially as follows: "You will be clothed, fed, and paid so much per month for your services. If you are disabled so that you are no longer of use to the country or yourself, you will be paid, during the continuance of your disability, a certain sum, to be ascertained and fixed according to the laws now in force and such amendments as may hereafter be made. If you are killed or die of disease or injuries contracted or incurred in the service of the Government, your wife—if you leave one, or the next person in succession under the law, if you do not—shall be paid not only what may be due you at death, if you die in service, but also a monthly pension of not less than eight dollars per month during widowhood or the period of dependence."

The pension was just as much a part of the contract entered into as the stipulated clothing, food, and monthly wages.

Care for Them.

"A FUND is being raised for a veteran soldiers' home in San Francisco, to care for disabled soldiers from any part of California. It has been ascertained that there are in the almshouses, in twelve counties of the State, thirty-four Mexican veterans, twenty-one Volunteers of the late war, and six United States Army veterans."—*Ex.*

A similar movement ought to be inaugurated in every State. It does not speak well for any community to let those who served the country faithfully in the hour of need languish in such institutions. The men who bore the brunt of battle deserve more consideration from both State and Nation.

The Value of a Limb.

DURING the war of the rebellion the highest price put upon a limb was ninety-six dollars per year, and the same valuation was fixed for the life of a common soldier. Now a limb is considered worth as much as eighteen dollars monthly; and for this rise in value those who have been shorn of one are truly grateful. The widow still finds, however, that eight dollars twelve times each year is considered an ample equivalent for the life that was once her joy and her support.

To Mexican Veterans.

We are preparing a list of survivors of the Mexican War, and to enable us to make it as complete as possible, ask that each one who served in Mexico and sees this notice will please send name, company, regimental rank, and post-office address to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C., to be recorded.

A Strong Advocate.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE has ever been the outspoken advocate of every measure calculated to advance the interests of the soldiers living and of the widows, orphans, and dependent relatives of those who have died. It has fearlessly opposed whatever has been prejudicial to their good. In the future, as in the past, it will continue to watch the current of public events, and approve or disapprove, as the welfare of those for whom it has earned the right to speak shall seem to require.

The Age of Invention.

THE PRESENT is in truth the age of invention. Never before has science been so active in discovering new and improved methods and mechanical appliances. Each new discovery seems to but add a new impetus to man's inventive genius. The value of practical inventions is also more readily recognized than at any time in the past, and to discover and reduce to a tangible form any new idea calculated to add to public or individual comfort, save extra labor, or accomplish any desired result in a more satisfactory manner than heretofore, is to open up to the discoverer a sure road to profit if not of wealth. Inventors are everywhere; and we refer those who wish to procure a patent and desire a competent attorney to the advertisement of Mr. George E. Lemon upon the eighth page of this issue.

WE SHALL be glad at all times to hear from any of our soldier or sailor friends who have matters of historical interest, incidents, or amusing anecdotes of the war to relate. All we ask is that the communication shall be brief, to the point, and be written upon one side of the paper only.

A PENSION founded upon disability or death incurred in the Military or Naval service of the United States during the late war of rebellion is not a gratuity, but a just debt. It is part of the consideration of a contract solemnly entered into at enlistment between soldier or sailor on the one part and the Government on the other, whereby the former gave service and the latter bound itself to pay, in addition to the monthly stipend, a fixed sum to become due on the happening of certain contingencies expressed in the statutes.

UPON our seventh page will be found a *fac simile* of Dr. George A. Scott's electric hair-bush. The description which accompanies it is worth a perusal by those in quest of such an indispensable toilet article.

WE INVITE the attention of those seeking new homes to the advertisement of the Southwestern Immigration Company of Austin, Texas, to be found on the eighth page.

HON. WILLIAM W. DUDLEY, COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS.

We take pleasure in introducing to the readers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE the new Commissioner of Pensions, whose portrait appears in this issue, and give a brief sketch of his thus far busy life.

Colonel Dudley was born August 27, 1842, at Weathersfield, Vt., and passed his boyhood in New England. In 1860, after completing his education, he migrated from Connecticut, whither his father, a Congregational clergyman, had removed, to Indiana, locating at Richmond, in that State, where he grew up to manhood. His early training was not forgotten in his new home, where the sterling characteristics of the New England people he soon added the breadth of mind and energy of the Great West. He first engaged in the milling business with his uncle, but soon gave it up on account of the breaking out of the war. He was among the first to respond to the call for troops, enlisting July 5, 1861, as a private soldier in the Nineteenth Indiana volunteers, but upon its organization was elected Captain of Company B of that regiment, which, on arriving in Washington, was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and afterwards formed part of the famous Iron Brigade.

He was present and, with his regiment, participated in all the engagements (except Fredericksburg, in December, 1862) in which his command, the First Brigade, First Division of the First Corps, took part, and upon every occasion distinguished himself as a good soldier, which is the highest possible recommendation that can be given any man. At Antietam he met with some narrow escapes, his clothing having been pierced with several bullets, and, what was doubtless far more gratifying to him, he received the personal commendation of his superior officer upon the field. Having succeeded by his coolness and skill in safely extricating his regiment from an exceedingly perilous position, General Patrick, under whom he was then serving, and who had observed the maneuver, rode up to him and said, "Captain, I shall mount you on a horse and call you Major after this."

He took the promotion so gallantly earned, and not long afterwards was advanced to be Lieutenant-Colonel of his regiment, the rank held by him when the battle of Gettysburg was fought, at which place he was severely wounded. Soldiers who took part in that memorable contest, especially those engaged during the first day, (July 1), will doubtless remember the stubborn fight against heavy odds made by the Iron Brigade, composed of the Nineteenth Indiana, Sixth, Seventh, and Second Wisconsin and Twenty-Fourth Michigan, and the capture by it of Archer's brigade of Rebel troops. The contest was for

an isolated piece of timber—McPherson's woods—lying along Willoughby's Run, held by the Iron Brigade, the Nineteenth Indiana being, in the afternoon, upon the extreme left.

The woods presented very much the form of a redoubt, and was attacked by the rebel General Hill's entire corps, which extended so far to the right as to nearly envelope the left of the Union line. Perceiving his danger of being flanked, Colonel Dudley sent back word to his commanding officers, (Generals Wadsworth of the Division, and Doubleday of the Corps), saying that his situation, as well as that of the remaining regiments of his brigade, was critical. The reply returned was that the position must be held at all hazards—and it was. The losses, however, were fearful. The brigade lost 68.3 per cent., and

amputated—gangrene and secondary hemorrhage having set in.

After remaining in Gettysburg for nearly two months Colonel Dudley was sent to New Haven, Conn., from whence, having somewhat recovered his former strength, he rejoined his regiment, returned to Indiana with them, and remained upon recruiting service.

Having filled up the ranks of his regiment, he was about to return to assume command, when his wound broke out afresh, and the surgeons forbade further active service. He thereupon resigned his commission and came to Washington for the purpose of settling his accounts with the Government, and while waiting for official action thereon accepted a clerkship in the Department of which he is now the head, where he remained until February, 1865.

During Early's great raid in July, 1864, in order to be ready, if needed, he organized into a battalion and drilled his co-laborers, many of whom are yet in the Pension Office.

At about that time he was married, and shortly after was stricken down with small-pox. During two months he was cared for by his devoted wife and one of his fellow-clerks, William Ford, who has recently learned the strength of Colonel Dudley's memory and value of his friendship by receiving a merited promotion at his hands almost upon his first induction into office.

Upon resigning from the Pension Office Colonel Dudley was commissioned a captain in the Regular Army with brevet rank of colonel, and detailed to inspect provost-marshal's offices. Not long afterwards he was appointed judge advocate and inspector of the military district of Indiana, and entered upon his duties as such in March, 1866.

In the course of time he drifted into politics, was elected clerk of Wayne county, Indiana, and having resigned from the army, he qualified for the position, which he held for eight years. In

1874 he began the practice of the law, and in 1878 was appointed to the office of United States marshal, which he held until nominated to be Commissioner of Pensions.

He is now about forty years of age, a man of fine presence, frank and engaging in his manner, possessed of admirable executive ability, and, what is perhaps best of all, is easily approachable by the humblest claimant that may express the wish to see him personally. His past record encourages the belief—in fact may be accepted as an assurance—that while he remains in control the affairs of the Pension Office will be properly administered, and that in all dealings with both pensioners and claimants, as well as with others having business with his Department, he will be governed by a broad and liberal spirit and a desire to do equity, and that promptly, to every one.

**The Meade Memorial.**

A church in memory of Major-General George G. Meade is to be erected at Gettysburg. It will be known as the Meade Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace. Rev. A. E. Tortal, the missionary in charge, says: "This monument is to be known as the 'Meade Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace.' The tower, 160 feet high, will be specially dedicated to the memory of the late Major-General George G. Meade, as the chief commander and the victorious Wellington of this battle. Around the walls, on well-cut stone, on pews and windows, on bell and organ, shall be perpetuated in indelible characters, the fame of those who here by their valor purchased immortality for themselves and their commanders, and whose names, therefore, were not born to die."

Arrears of Pension.

During Mr. Bentley's administration of the Pension Office many invalid pensioners were unjustly dealt with in the matter of computing their arrears of pension. In cases where claims were filed prior to the passage of the Arrears law, and in which the degree of the pensioner's disability was not clearly shown during the period intervening between the date of the soldier's discharge and the date of his first examination by the Pension Office surgeon, Mr. Bentley appears to have guessed at a rating, and in hundreds, perhaps thousands of cases, his guesses were very bad ones. Cases exist where pensioners were, for several years immediately following discharge, on crutches or bedridden, and certainly entitled to be rated while thus wholly disabled for the performance of any manual labor at \$8 a month, the highest rate allowed at the close of the war to an enlisted man.

Mr. Bentley, instead of calling for medical and lay testimony to fix the exact degree of disability covering each year, rated the pensioners at a low figure from date of discharge to the date of examination by his surgeon, claiming that, until such examination, he could have no official knowledge of the degree of disability. Thus pensioners were rated at \$2 and \$4 a month for perhaps four or five years, and then jumped to \$6 and \$12 a month.

Pensioners who have been thus unfairly dealt with will find it to their advantage to consult the advertisement of Mr. George E. Lemon upon the seventh page of this issue.

To Old Subscribers.

We desire to say to those who are now upon the books of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE and whose subscriptions have not expired, that the paper in its new form will be sent for the period of two months—eight numbers—after which, if not renewed in the meantime, it will be stopped.

To those who prior to the expiration of the two months send us \$1 additional, making \$1.50 in all, the paper will be sent for the further period of one year, postage prepaid. Thus by the prompt payment of a small amount sixty numbers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will be received by the subscriber. We are satisfied that those who have cheerfully paid fifty cents for two numbers will not hesitate to pay the extra \$1 and obtain the fifty-two numbers additional. Send in subscriptions early.

The correspondence column of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is open to all proper inquiries from subscribers upon any subject touching which information is desired. Queries must, however, be brief, plainly written, and accompanied with the name and post-office address of the writer in order to insure attention. The initials only, however, or such name as the writer may select, will be given in the replies, which will appear as soon as practicable after the inquiry is received.

TO ALL old subscribers renewing their subscriptions and to new subscribers THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will present a fine steel engraving of Colonel William W. Dudley, the new Commissioner of Pensions. The engraving is mounted upon heavy paper ready for framing, is 9 x 11 inches in size, and a fine likeness. Every subscriber should have a copy. In sending in subscriptions be sure and state that you want the picture; otherwise it will not be sent.

MR. GEORGE E. LEMON, whose advertisement appears upon the seventh page of this issue, received during the month ending July 31, notifications of the allowance of 500 pension claims in which he was the attorney.

The new Commissioner is evidently determined that claimants shall have more justice and less delay than fell to their lot under the rule of his predecessor.

Send in your subscriptions for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, the best weekly soldier's paper in the country. It will be sent on trial three months for fifty cents, or six months for seventy-five cents. Sample copies free.

The Reynolds Memorial.

Major Joseph G. Rosengarten, treasurer of the Association under whose auspices a fund is being raised for the erection of an equestrian statue of General John E. Reynolds in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, acknowledges the receipt of a contribution of \$25 from Lincoln Post, No. 3, Grand Army of the Republic, of Washington, D. C. The contribution is sent by Post Commander N. M. Brooks, who, in an accompanying note, states that the action of his Post was in accordance with General Order No. 16, dated at the National Headquarters at Philadelphia, conveying a stirring appeal issued by General Louis Wagner, late Commander-in-Chief.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will, if desired, receipt for all contributions which may be sent to it by those wishing to assist in doing honor to the memory of the gallant Reynolds, and see that the amounts forwarded are duly turned over to the Memorial Association and proper acknowledgment made. Ex-soldiers can, by subscribing each a small amount, be enabled to materially aid the good and patriotic undertaking.

To Readers of the National Tribune.

Next week Mr. B. F. Taylor's description of the Battle of Lookout Mountain will be published, to be followed in the succeeding issue with his account of the capture of Mission Ridge. These articles, written at the time, on the field, by a spectator of the stirring scenes depicted, will prove of great interest to all ex-soldiers, and especially to those of the Western Army, who took part in the stubborn contests around Chattanooga.

The recollections of the Advance upon Yorktown begun in this number, will also be continued in the two succeeding issues, in which anecdotes and incidents of the siege will be given.

These articles will be followed from time to time by sketches of army life, battles, &c., contributed by prominent officers and others who served in the late war, and which have never, as yet, appeared in print.

We expect to make this a leading feature of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, and all who are interested should, if they have not already done so, subscribe at once, so that none of the articles will be missed by them.

Mrs. Clarissa Burlingame, of Rathbone, has received \$3,000 back pension, and will have an allowance of \$15 per month.—*Steuben (N. Y.) Courier.*

Captain George E. Lemon, of this city, was Mrs. Burlingame's attorney.—*Ed.*

President Garfield.

Owing to our large edition we are compelled to go to press at an early day, and therefore cannot give as late news of the President's condition as we would wish. At this time (the evening of the 17th) he lies in a very precarious condition. His stomach refuses food and efforts are being made to sustain him by injections of liquid nourishment. A few hours will probably determine whether the resulting effects of the assassin's bullet will be death or life. In the meantime we can only hope for the best. Whichever may be the ending of the sad affair, our readers will learn, by telegraph, perhaps before this issue of our paper is received.

NEWS ITEMS.

The cable reports another insurrection of the natives in British India.

Secretary of State Blaine has sent an invitation to the descendants of the Baron Steuben, who served in the American Army during the Revolution, to be present at the Yorktown Centennial.

The Mesquero Apache Indians are again on the war path, and a large number of persons have been massacred. The troops are in pursuit of the marauders.

Hon. John A. Logan will make the opening speech of welcome at the soldiers' reunion which will take place at Bloomington, Ill., on September 7 next. General Grant will also be present.

Superintendent Carlisle P. Patterson, of the U. S. Coast Survey, died on the 15th instant at his residence, "Brentwood," near this city. He was the son of the late Commodore D. T. Patterson, U. S. Navy.

Captain Hooper, of the revenue cutter Corwin, now at Alaska, has heard from one of the missing whalers, the Vigilant, through some Indians. Articles taken from the wreck were found in their possession, and forwarded to this city through the Alaska Company's steamer St. Paul, which has just arrived at San Francisco with the news. It is supposed the vessel was wrecked in 1879. The Indians say that four bodies were found in the vessel, and that her cabin was full of water and the side stove in.

Captain H. W. Hogue, formerly of the U. S. Signal Service, and whose name was at one time prominent as a probable successor to the late Gen. Albert J. Meyer, was recently arrested at Mount Clemens, Mich., on a charge of embezzling over \$40,000 of Government money, while connected with the Signal Service Bureau, through bogus bills for telegraphing. He has been brought to this city for trial. He was at one time postmaster at Rome, Mich.

August 14th, during the races at Marseilles, France, a large and crowded stand fell, carrying down with it about two thousand persons, killing and wounding a large number.

The crop reports from Europe are, on the whole, rather unsatisfactory. The yield (except of wheat and barley in England) is considered not up to the average.

We print 100,000 copies of this number of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

ARMY REUNIONS.

Preparations are now being made for a Grand National Reunion of honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the United States, to be held at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 14th, 15th, and 16th. The movement is being conducted under the auspices of the Ex-Army and Navy Officers' Society, Grand Army of the Republic, Soldier's and Sailor's Memorial Association, German Veterans, the Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, Tenth, Twenty-eighth, and Forty-seventh Ohio Infantry Societies, First and Second Kentucky, Fourth Ohio Cavalry, Seventeenth Missouri and Fourth Battery Society, Regular Army Society, Mexican Veteran and Ex-Prisoners of War Societies, and various other organizations too numerous to mention. Every effort is being made to make it a grand affair. Railroad rates will be reduced on all lines centering at Cincinnati, and arrangements made for the accommodation of visitors at the most reasonable rates, free tents being furnished those desiring to camp out. Already 150 regimental reunions have been provided for. It is expected that there will be nearly, if not quite, one hundred thousand ex-soldiers present, and a large number of prominent officers. The opportunity to visit the Paris of America, do the Exposition, see the Big Organ, and above all things, to talk over old times with comrades tried and true, is one that should be improved by all. Those desiring to attend can address H. G. Kennett, Secretary, Room 9, Pike's Opera Building, Cincinnati, O.

A Soldiers' Reunion is to be held at Bloomington, Ill., September 7th, 8th, and 9th. A large attendance is expected.

The survivors of the Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry will hold a reunion at Woodstock, in that State, September 15.

A Reunion of Union veterans of the late war is to be held at Waterloo, N. Y., August 22d, inst. The Thirty-second Iowa Infantry will hold a two days' Reunion at Iowa Falls, beginning August 31st, inst. A pleasant time is anticipated. No special invitations are given, but all are expected to attend without further notice. B. Knapp, of Iowa Falls, Iowa, is chairman of the committee of arrangements.

A soldiers' and sailors' Reunion is to take place at Caldwell, Ohio, September 9, for the purpose of raising funds to erect a monument at that place in memory of the dead heroes of the late war who enlisted from that vicinity.

September 5th to 10th a similar Reunion of ex-soldiers' and sailors' is to be held at Lincoln, Nebraska.

A soldier's Reunion is to be held in Topeka, Kansas, September 15, 1881. Every arrangement is being made for the comfort of those who attend, and a cordial invitation is extended to all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors to be present. W. H. Ward, Esq., of Topeka, is secretary of the committee on invitations.

George J. Lawrence Post, No. 17, G. A. R., of Minersville, Pa., will hold a camp-fire at Furnace Grove, Minersville, from the 24th to the 27th of this month.

The Fiftieth N. Y. V. engineers have a reunion at Geneva, August 25th.